

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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3.

This meeting is complicated by a 14 May 1972 memorandum (which is in your folder). It describes the 7 May meeting in terms of obfuscation, avoiding any discussion of "assassination." I view this as clearly a cover memorandum -- Senator Church will probably view it as an indication that Kennedy did not approve or know about the assassination program.

Interesting Note: Helms recalls that the State Department had a man engaged in a full-time effort to try and arrange a group to take over the government of Cuba upon the assassination of Castro.

Post-1961 Specific Phase II Operations.

(1) On 18 April 1962 poison pills were delivered by CIA ~~Dr.~~ ~~Trichter~~ to Harvey to be sent into Cuba. Later memoranda indicate that these pills were actually sent to Cuba. Additionally, memoranda indicate that the pills were "in place" ready for the attempt.

(2) Guns and explosives were given by Harvey and JMWAVE Chief Shackley to Cuban asset Verona at a cost of \$5,000.

(3) In June of 1962 and later in September documents indicate that three-man teams were sent into Cuba by Harvey's operatives for assassination attempts. Indeed, in December 1962/January 1963 a \$2700 payment was made by Harvey to Verona for expenses of the three-man teams.

~~SECRET~~

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4.

(4) April/May 1963. Helms approves Harvey's meeting with Roselli as a kind of "close-out" of the Roselli relationship. FBI has Roselli under surveillance -- calls Harvey and says they must tell Hoover -- Harvey calls Helms -- Helms says no need to brief McCone. Note: Senator Church may view this as another indication of Helms acting on his own.

(5) In 1963 CIA's TSD implements a skin-diving suit with poison and proposes a scheme regarding an exploding seashell. Helms will say they were only wacky proposals by underlings which never got anywhere. While this may be true as to the latter, the skindiving suit/TSD must have had his approval -- TSD reports directly to DDP.

(6) October 1963. Des Fitzgerald (now deceased) goes to Paris to meet Cuban asset Cubella. Cubella wants to assassinate Castro. Documents indicate that Helms tells Fitzgerald he may use the Attorney General's name without seeking approval from Kennedy.

(7) Circa November 22, 1963. ~~Dr. Gunn of~~ CIA prepares poison pen which is delivered to Cubella in Paris. Documents unclear as to whether Cubella accepts it or not.

(8) 7 March 1966. Helms sends memorandum to Secretary Rusk denying Agency use of Cubella in assassination scheme. While Helms may have a technical interpretation which makes the memorandum correct it doesn't disclose any of the CIA's contacts with Cubella.

Note: This again be used to argue no executive approval.

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FOR HELMS TESTIMONY -- PHASE II OPERATIONS UNDER HARVEY

February 1962. Bissell was replaced by Helms on February 17. [Prior to Helms formally becoming DDP on February 9 is the "first recorded 'authorization' of ZRRIFLE Project; Helms gives written authority for Harvey to handle ZRRIFLE with unvouchered funds based on Harvey's general sign-off.]

April 1962 was when Edwards recalls Harvey asking for an introduction to Roselli. This ^(the Harvey-Roselli-O'Connell meeting in N.Y.) took place on April 8 or 9.

Both Edwards and Harvey stated in 1967 that they each independently checked with Helms prior to Edwards introducing Harvey to Roselli.

In 1967 Harvey stated that thereafter he "regularly briefed" Helms on the status of the Castro operation. ^(He repeated that to me last night)

The 1967 report states that Edwards' statement he "verified Helms' approval to go ahead with Roselli and Harvey" is the earliest indication that Helms had been made witting of the syndicate operation against Castro.

According to Harvey (in 1967) it was at this time, in early April, when Harvey briefed Helms on Roselli that he obtained Helms' approval not to brief McCone.

Implementation of Phase II.

Dr. Treichler's records indicate that he delivered four pills (1 capsule and three tablets) to Jim O'Connell on April 18, 1962. Harvey gave the pills to Verona in Miami in late April. In late